

# FY 2015 Operating Plan

---

## Southeast and Caribbean Regional Collaboration Team

## National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration



*North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia,  
Florida, Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands*

February 2015

# Contents

I. Introduction .....	3
Annual Operating Plan Purpose and Organization .....	4
II. Team Activities .....	5
Priority: Improve efficiency and effectiveness of NOAA’s mission-execution through enhanced collaboration across NOAA offices and with partners .....	5
Activity A1. Advance NOAA’s mission through engagement with the Governors’ South Atlantic Alliance.....	5
Activity A2. Advance NOAA’s mission through engagement with the NOAA in the Caribbean Collaborative and promote implementation of the NOAA Caribbean Strategy .....	6
Activity A3. Engage other partners, including regional partnerships, to address specific regional priorities.....	9
Activity A4. Address national and regional priorities by facilitating two-way flow of information between NOAA HQ and the region.....	12
Activity A5. Understand and represent NOAA’s broad mission capabilities and accomplishments within the region.....	14
Activity A6. Enhance the capacity of SECART to lead organizational integration within the region...	15
Activity A7. Improve the capacity of NOAA’s inter-regional and national integrated services.....	17
Priority: Improve resilience of communities to extreme events and climate change.....	19
Activity B1. Improve Community Resiliency through the facilitation of improved rip current and wave run up modeling and communication. ....	19
Activity B2. Completion of SECART/Sea Grant Storm Surge Measurement Project. ....	21
Activity B3. Facilitate improvements in rip current modeling and observations. ....	23
Activity B4. Hurricane / Resilience Webinar Series. ....	24
Activity B5. Engage and support the Southeast and Caribbean Climate Community of Practice. ....	25
Activity B6. Improve inter-NOAA communication and understanding of responses to large scale disasters within the SECART region. ....	26
Priority: Promote the sustainability of the region’s living marine resources and the habitats upon which they depend .....	28
Activity C1. Enhance coordination of benthic habitat mapping prioritization and planning in the Caribbean and Southeast US .....	28
Activity C2. Support selection, rollout, and implementation of Habitat Blueprint Focus Areas in the Southeast and Caribbean. ....	29
Activity C3. Support the North Carolina Sentinel Site Cooperative. ....	30
Activity C4. SWaTH Network in the Southeast: Initiating a rapid response team to deploy wave and water level sensors to measure high water and storm inundation with impacts to coastal habitats.....	32
Activity C5. Inventory regional datasets on the dynamics of fisheries ecosystems to explore emerging ecoforecasting goals in the southeast.....	33
Activity C6. Identify priorities in ecoforecasting goals for Southeast US related to fisheries ecosystems.....	34

Activity C7. Improve coordination and messaging of NOAA science to support offshore energy development.....	35
Section III. Appendices.....	37
Appendix 1. Southeast and Caribbean Regional Collaboration Team Membership .....	37
Appendix 2. Regional Collaboration Strategy Map. ....	38
Appendix 3. SECART FY15-18 Strategic Priorities.....	39
Appendix 4. SECART FY2015 Spend Plan.....	42

# I. Introduction

NOAA's strategic goals and objectives are aligned with the Department of Commerce (DOC) goals and objectives and with Administration priorities. Within this framework, NOAA's regional collaboration network seeks to improve NOAA's productivity and value to customers by articulating and acting on the broader NOAA goals and objectives in terms of priority regional needs and regional contributions.

NOAA's regional collaboration network is comprised of eight regional teams plus support/engagement through NOAA Headquarters and Line Offices. The Southeast and Caribbean Regional Team (SECART) covers NC, SC, GA, FL PR, and USVI. The team is currently comprised of 22 members representing geographic and topical diversity of NOAA staff and partners within the region (Appendix 1).

## NOAA's Goals and Objectives

NOAA focuses its activities toward the following Strategic Goals and Enterprise Objectives articulated in the NOAA Strategic Plan:

- Climate Adaptation and Mitigation – An informed society anticipating and responding to climate and its impacts
- Weather-Ready Nation – Society is prepared for and responds to weather-related events
- Healthy Oceans – Vibrant marine fisheries, habitats, and biodiversity sustained within healthy and productive ecosystems
- Resilient Coastal Communities and Economies – Coastal and Great Lakes communities that are environmentally and economically sustainable
- NOAA's Science and Technology Enterprise
- NOAA's Engagement Enterprise
- NOAA's Organization and Administration Enterprise

## Regional Collaboration Strategy Map

During FY14-FY15, the Regional Collaboration Network developed a "strategy map" to articulate its vision, mission, goals, and strategies to meet its objective in the NOAA Strategy: "Integrated services meeting the evolving demands of regional stakeholders." The Regional Collaboration Network's Strategy map is included in this document as Appendix 2.

## SECART Priorities

NOAA's Southeast and Caribbean Regional Team (SECART) has identified its priorities for FY15-18. These are:

### **Priority: Improve efficiency and effectiveness of NOAA's mission-execution through enhanced collaboration across NOAA offices and with partners.**

- Goal: Address regional priorities by connecting people and resources
- Goal: Exchange both national and regional insights that inform action
- Goal: Improve awareness of NOAA's broad mission responsibilities and regional capabilities to achieve an understanding of, and respect for, the totality of NOAA's work

**Priority: Improve Resilience of Communities to Extreme Events and Climate Change**

- Goal: Facilitate the development of emerging science and technology solutions to enable regional stakeholders to better plan for and respond to the risks posed by hazards and climate change
- Goal: Facilitate the application of products, services, and knowledge to enhance the capacity of communities to understand, plan for, and respond to risks posed by extreme events and climate change.
- Goal: Enhance organizational awareness and coordination within the region to improve response to a natural or man-made disaster

**Priority: Promote the sustainability of the region's living marine resources and the habitats upon which they depend**

- Goal: Improve coordination and focus of coastal and marine habitat conservation and restoration
- Goal: Enhance awareness of risks to living marine resources and habitats

The full FY15-18 Strategy is presented as Appendix 3.

***Annual Operating Plan Purpose and Organization***

**Purpose**

The purpose of the Annual Operating Plan (AOP) is to guide and document team activities during the fiscal year. Regional team AOPs form the basis to examine how well the agency is addressing Administration and regional priorities. AOPs also serve as a tool for communicating regionally-informed priorities.

**Organization**

This AOP for FY2015 addresses national and regional priorities by utilizing an integrative, cross-line office approach, with an emphasis on enhancing coordination and communication within the region. The priority activities of SECART are organized according to the three SECART priorities mentioned above. Activities may address multiple priorities and goals, but are organized within a single priority for the purposes of the AOP. Activity descriptions provide information about the purpose, scope, partners, and budget of the activity. Milestones are associated with deliverables or expected accomplishments.

Regional Collaboration funding from NOAA (\$50K) has been allocated to enable SECART to address priorities. This funding for SECART work has been and will continue to be augmented and leveraged through other programs and funding opportunities. SECART's FY2015 spend plan is presented in Appendix 5.

## II. Team Activities

### **Priority: Improve efficiency and effectiveness of NOAA's mission-execution through enhanced collaboration across NOAA offices and with partners**

#### ***Activity A1. Advance NOAA's mission through engagement with the Governors' South Atlantic Alliance***

##### **Leader(s):**

- Virginia Fay ([Virginia.Fay@noaa.gov](mailto:Virginia.Fay@noaa.gov))
- Brad Gane ([brad.gane@dnr.state.ga.us](mailto:brad.gane@dnr.state.ga.us))
- Geno Olmi ([geno.olmi@noaa.gov](mailto:geno.olmi@noaa.gov))

##### **Participants:**

- Kristine Cherry (GSAA)
- Rich Bandy (NOAA/NWS)
- Bill O'Beirne (NOAA/NOS/OCM)
- Bethney Ward (NOAA/NOS/OCM)
- Kyle Ward (NOAA/NOS/OCS)
- GSAA Executive Planning Team

**Objectives/Summary:** The Governors' South Atlantic Alliance (GSAA) is a regional ocean partnership among the states of North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia and Florida. Its mission is to significantly increase regional collaboration among these South Atlantic states and with federal agency partners and other stakeholders, and to sustain and enhance the environmental, natural resource, economic, public safety, social, and national defense missions of the respective states and the South Atlantic region as a whole. NOAA is one of three federal co-chairs (our co-chair role is presently vacant since the retirement of Paul Sandifer). NOAA can help advance collaboration in direct response to coastal and ocean issues identified by the GSAA. NOAA can also explore innovative mechanisms for ecosystem management, integrate coastal and marine spatial planning, integrate coastal and ocean observations, and develop decision-support systems based on policy and science, while emphasizing local, state and federal collaboration.

SECART will continue its role assisting coordination across NOAA with the GSAA and its four Issue Area Technical Teams (Disaster-Resilient Communities, Healthy Ecosystems, Working Waterfronts, and Clean Coastal and Ocean Waters) which closely align to NOAA priorities. In addition, SECART will work with the GSAA and the Navy to support implementation of marine spatial planning and the Southeast Regional Planning Body.

In the past, SECART has provided funding for enhancing the GSAA web site and for assisting NOAA and non-NOAA travelers to attend the annual workshop and to attend Issue Area Technical Team meetings. In FY15, SECART is budgeting funds to support NOAA representation at GSAA meetings (full meeting and IATT).

The objectives are to:

- Increase the level of understanding of NOAA products and services in the region to GSAA members
- Respond to region-wide needs, including coastal and marine spatial planning
- Advance regional and internal collaboration
- Enhance the success of goals and objectives of the GSAA, through participation on technical teams and support of GSAA activities
- Assist the Navy as needed to convene the Southeast Regional Planning Body to further coastal and marine planning

**Cost/Funding Source:** \$2200 of SECART funds to support the RC (600) and other NOAA staff (1600) travel to GSAA technical team and full meetings as needed; in-kind support of SECART members' time to participate.

#### **SECART Goals/Objectives Met:**

Goal 1 Address regional priorities by connecting people and resources.

- Objective 1. Understand the capabilities of NOAA and its partners within the region and facilitate bringing those capabilities to bear on priority issues, consistent with NOAA's mission;
- Objective 2. Convene NOAA and partners together to address specific regional priorities;
- Objective 3. Support and engage regional partnerships to efficiently address shared goals

Goal 2: Exchange both national and regional insights that inform action.

- Objective 1. Understand regional issues and needs and transmit that information to inform NOAA programming;

#### **Key Milestones/Tasks:**

- NOAA participation in GSAA full and technical team meetings
- Identification of and access to relevant NOAA data for the GSAA data portal
- As needed support for information and technical assistance

### ***Activity A2. Advance NOAA's mission through engagement with the NOAA in the Caribbean Collaborative and promote implementation of the NOAA Caribbean Strategy***

#### **Leader(s):**

- Bill Arnold ([Bill.Arnold@noaa.gov](mailto:Bill.Arnold@noaa.gov))
- Bill O'Beirne ([Bill.O'Beirne@noaa.gov](mailto:Bill.O'Beirne@noaa.gov))
- Jeff Payne ([jeff.payne@noaa.gov](mailto:jeff.payne@noaa.gov))

### **Participants:**

- NOAA in the Caribbean Steering Committee

### **Objectives/Summary:**

NOAA has a broad portfolio of activities in the Caribbean region, both nationally and internationally. Given the extent of locations, mission, and partners throughout the region, communication and coordination can be challenging. NOAA's Southeast and Caribbean Regional Team (SECART) initiated NOAA in the Caribbean (NOAA Carib) with the goal of identifying and responding to local and regional challenges, needs, and opportunities in the Caribbean region through collaboration across NOAA and with non-NOAA partners. NOAA Carib includes NOAA employees and partners currently active in research, management, training, or other efforts in the Caribbean. NOAA Carib's initial focus has been on Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands; however, the initiative seeks to maintain resource exchanges with Florida and, as appropriate and practicable, with partners in the wider Caribbean.

In FY14, the NOAA Caribbean Strategy

(<http://www.regions.noaa.gov/secar/wpcontent/uploads/2014/07/NOAA-Caribbean-Strategy-Final-June-23-2014-FINAL.pdf>) was approved by Dr. Kathy Sullivan, NOAA's Undersecretary. The NOAA Caribbean Strategy lays out three goals for meeting NOAA's mission in the Caribbean region. The Strategy has three interconnected goals:

- Improve conservation and management of ocean and coastal ecosystems and resources;
- Strengthened understanding of, and adaptation to, a changing climate;
- Enhanced multi-hazard monitoring, forecasting, and risk management.

SECART and the NOAA Carib collaborative provide a focus for NOAA on implementation of the Strategy and will work with partners in the execution of the Strategy's short-term objectives, as part of a broader regional coordination effort in the Caribbean. As we work to implement elements of the NOAA Caribbean Strategy, we must of course be cognizant of new and evolving issues and concerns (e.g., ESA listing of coral species).

The objectives of this activity are to:

- Participate in the NOAA in the Caribbean Steering Committee.
- Work with the NOAA Carib Steering Committee to maintain production of the NOAA in the Caribbean Newsletter. Launched in February 2012 as the first product from the new NOAA in the Caribbean Initiative, the NOAA in the Caribbean Newsletter aims to enhance communication and awareness of NOAA's Caribbean activities both within NOAA and with the Caribbean region's managers, partners and decision makers. The newsletter is currently the only one-NOAA outreach product with a focus on the Caribbean region. Resourcing the newsletter continues to be a challenge.
- In May 2012, NOAA Carib held its first annual meeting in St. Thomas, Virgin Islands, to discuss how to best identify and respond to local and regional challenges in the Caribbean with NOAA and non-NOAA partners, including through the NOAA Caribbean Strategy. In Jan-Feb 2014, NOAA Carib used virtual technology and small hub locations to coordinate with our Caribbean partners, both within and outside of NOAA for our second



annual meeting. Reports from these first two workshops are available. During FY15 the NOAA Carib Steering Committee will begin planning for the next in-person workshop.

- For the last few years SECART has provided support for an intern to provide logistical support to the NOAA Carib Steering Committee, including collaboration with the Chair and Vice-Chair, to assist in promoting the goals and objectives of NOAA Carib. A student has recently been selected from University of South Florida.
- Advance specific short-term implementation of the goals of the NOAA Caribbean Strategy, particularly the Climate Goal as articulated in a framework of priority partner and user needs established in FY14

Advance specific short-term implementation of the goals of the NOAA Caribbean Strategy, particularly the Climate Goal as articulated in a framework of priority partner and user needs established in FY14 .

**Cost/Funding Source:** \$2400 of FY15 SECART resources - \$1400 is allocated for RC travel and \$1000 is allocated for other team member travel related to this activity.

\$13,200 of FY13 funds (from SECART and NESDIS/NCDC) provided to the Cooperative Institute for Marine and Atmospheric Studies (Univ. of Miami) will be used to initiate projects under the Climate Goal of the NOAA Caribbean Strategy.

\$4,000 of FY13 funds (from SECART and NESDIS/NCDC) provided to the Cooperative Institute for Marine and Atmospheric Studies (Univ. of Miami) will be used to support student intern.

### **SECART Goals/Objectives Met :**

Goal 1 Address regional priorities by connecting people and resources.

- Objective 1. Understand the capabilities of NOAA and its partners within the region and facilitate bringing those capabilities to bear on priority issues, consistent with NOAA's mission;
- Objective 2. Convene NOAA and partners together to address specific regional priorities;
- Objective 3. Support and engage regional partnerships to efficiently address shared goals

Goal 2: Exchange both national and regional insights that inform action.

- Objective 1. Understand regional issues and needs and transmit that information to inform NOAA programming;

### **Key Milestones/Tasks:**

- Assist the NOAA Carib Steering Team to develop and deliver NOAA in the Caribbean Newsletters (Q1, Q2, Q3, Q4)
- Support NOAA Carib student intern position. (Q1, Q4)
- Plan for a NOAA in the Caribbean Partners meeting for FY16. (Q4)
- Initiate CoCoRaHS observations in USVI, and expand the existing network of observations in Puerto Rico (Q3, Q4)
- Support NOAA participation in the Spring 2015 Caribbean Regional Climate Outlook Forum (Q3)

- Provide Puerto Rico Sea Grant with funds to provide translation services of key NOAA climate products and information (Q3, Q4)
- Support NOAA and partner participation in a Caribbean climate data scoping workshop hosted by NCEI in Asheville NC (Q4)
- Initiate implementation of one or more short-term objectives of the Caribbean Strategy, working with CIMAS and other partners (Q3)
- Further NOAA's mission requirements of delivering integrated services in the Caribbean, as informed by the Strategy and in partnership with NOAACarib and others. (Q4)
- Continue expansion of CoCoRaHS Network into the US Caribbean through provision of rain gauges and training to volunteers. (Q1-4)

***Activity A3. Engage other partners, including regional partnerships, to address specific regional priorities***

**Leaders:**

- Geno Olmi ([Geno.Olmi@noaa.gov](mailto:Geno.Olmi@noaa.gov))
- David Brown ([David.P.Brown@noaa.gov](mailto:David.P.Brown@noaa.gov))
- Rich Bandy ([Richard.Bandy@noaa.gov](mailto:Richard.Bandy@noaa.gov))
- Chris Taylor ([Chris.Taylor@noaa.gov](mailto:Chris.Taylor@noaa.gov))

**Participants:**

- All SECART members
- Todd Davison (NOS/OCM)
- Bill O' Beirne (NOS/OCM)
- Each LCC brings together federal, state, and local governments along with Tribes and First Nations, non-governmental organizations, universities, and interested public and private organizations. Engagement especially with the Steering Committees.
- Southeast Coastal Ocean Observing Regional Association (SECOORA) and the Caribbean Regional Association for Ocean Observing (CaRA)
- Sea Grant programs in the region (NC, SC, GA, FL, PR)
- South Atlantic Fishery Management Council; Caribbean Fishery Management Council
- The Nature Conservancy and other non-governmental organizations
- Other groups SECART doesn't currently work with but may be at some time of value to connect more closely:
  - SERPPAS – NC, SC, GA, FL, AL, and MS; NOAA, DoD, US Forest Service, USFWS, EPA, all Armed Services, NRCS, USGS
  - SENRLG – NOAA, USFWS, EPA, TVA, DOT, NRCS, BLM, NPS, US Forest Service, USGS, ACOE, and USAEC
  - SARP – 14 southeastern states, NOAA, USFWS, Gulf and Atlantic States Fisheries Commissions, Gulf and South Atlantic Fisheries Management Councils, all SE Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, NGOs, and other local, private, industry, and business sectors

- ACFHP - composed of fish habitat resource managers, scientists, and communications professionals from 30 different state, federal, tribal and non-governmental agencies

**Objectives/Summary:** Multi-partner coordination activities are occurring in the region focused on ecosystems, sustainability, and economic development integration. These partnerships provide opportunities for inter-agency and state-federal collaborations. Over the last few years, SECART interacted with and provided various levels of support to several ongoing partnership efforts. Two partnerships will receive particular attention from SECART in FY15 and are identified as separate activities (see Activity A1 and A2). In FY15, SECART will continue to engage and/or monitor developments of the following groups, and others as appropriate, for enhanced engagement opportunities.

### **Landscape Conservation Cooperatives**

The Department of Interior launched the Landscape Conservation Cooperatives (LCCs) to better integrate science and management to address climate change and other landscape scale issues. The 22 LCCs collectively form a network of resource managers and scientists who share a common need for scientific information and interest in conservation. Each LCC brings together federal, state, and local governments along with Tribes and First Nations, non-governmental organizations, universities, and interested public and private organizations. Partners work collaboratively to identify best practices, connect efforts, identify science gaps, and avoid duplication through conservation planning and design.

NOAA has a designated representative on most of the 22 LCC Steering Committees, similar to other LCC partners. NOAA's LCC Steering Committee members work to advance the work of NOAA and the LCC network. Three LCCs overlap with the SECART geography. SECART members serve on steering committees for two of the LCCs – South Atlantic and Caribbean – and coordinate closely with Todd Davison, who is the NOAA representative on the Florida Peninsula LCC.

### **NOAA in the Carolinas Collaborative**

NOAA in the Carolinas (NinC) has its origins as a grassroots partnership of NOAA and external partners from North and South Carolina. The mission of NinC is to develop and use a collaborative approach to work more efficiently and enhance NOAA products and services to the region. NinC has three main objectives:

- Understand and support the OneNOAA vision and avenues for regional influence.
- Promote communication and integration of NOAA partners (inside and outside) and activities in the region.
- Improve products, services, and public access.

This collaborative's mission is consistent with, and enables, the mission of SECART, and several SECART members serve on the NinC steering committee.

Over the past 10 years, NinC has hosted numerous regional meetings with participants from the two states and beyond, depending on thematic intent. The meetings have helped identify new partnership projects for NinC to help promote, generate support, and build momentum for

accomplishing NOAA's mission in the Carolinas region. NinC has also developed ties with the National Integrated Drought Information System (NIDIS) pilot program in the coastal Carolinas.

Possibly because of the similarity in mission with SECART, interest in sustaining NinC has waned and the executive committee has discussed pausing activity until a need to resume is identified. As such SECART will stand by to assist NinC but has not allocated funds for NinC in FY15.

**Caribbean Regional Association (CaRA) / Caribbean Coastal Ocean Observing System (CariCOOS)** – One of 11 Regional Associations established through IOOS, CaRA is responsible for coordinating coastal and ocean observing activities in the U.S. Caribbean and facilitating dialogue among stakeholders. The Regional Association is guided by user groups in the region and helps ensure that data providers meet those needs.

**Southeast Coastal Ocean Observing Regional Association (SECOORA)** – One of 11 Regional Associations established through IOOS, SECOORA is responsible for coordinating coastal and ocean observing activities in the Southeast and facilitating dialogue among stakeholders. The Regional Association is guided by user groups in the region and helps ensure that data providers meet those needs. SECART is an affiliate member of SECOORA. The Executive Director of SECOORA is currently a member of SECART.

The objectives of this activity are to:

- Serve on steering committees, technical teams and other collaborations as appropriate in support of regional partnerships
- Monitor progress of regional partnerships and identify appropriate opportunities for engagement, responding to region-wide needs
- Utilize SECART's collaborative network to enhance the success of the regional partners
- Increase the level of understanding of NOAA products and services in the region

**Cost/Funding Source:** Support team member travel to regional workshops (\$500); support Regional coordinator travel to SALCC Steering Committee meetings and other partnership travel (i.e., SECOORA) (\$1300); in kind support by RC and other team members during engagement with regional partnerships.

#### **SECART Goals/Objectives Met:**

Goal 1 Address regional priorities by connecting people and resources.

- Objective 1. Understand the capabilities of NOAA and its partners within the region and facilitate bringing those capabilities to bear on priority issues, consistent with NOAA's mission;
- Objective 2. Convene NOAA and partners together to address specific regional priorities;
- Objective 3. Support and engage regional partnerships to efficiently address shared goals

Goal 2: Exchange both national and regional insights that inform action.

- Objective 1. Understand regional issues and needs and transmit that information to inform NOAA programming;

**Key Milestones/Tasks:**

- SECART members will participate in these partnerships as appropriate and look to identify opportunities for engagement, if beneficial to NOAA's mission in the region
- Represent NOAA on the Steering Committees of the South Atlantic, Florida Peninsula, and Caribbean LCC (Q1-4), including participation in steering team calls and annual face-to-face meetings
- Work with relevant NOAA's LCC Coordinator, programs, offices, and Regional Collaboration Teams to coordinate and effectively communicate to the LCC, NOAA's mission interests in landscape/seascape conservation and bring NOAA capabilities to the LCC to assist in the attainment of LCC goals and objectives
- Effectively communicate LCC activities, projects, and opportunities to relevant NOAA programs, offices, and the Regional Collaboration Teams

***Activity A4. Address national and regional priorities by facilitating two-way flow of information between NOAA HQ and the region.*****Leaders:**

- Geno Olmi ([Geno.Olmi@noaa.gov](mailto:Geno.Olmi@noaa.gov))
- David Brown ([David.P.Brown@noaa.gov](mailto:David.P.Brown@noaa.gov))
- Rich Bandy ([Richard.Bandy@noaa.gov](mailto:Richard.Bandy@noaa.gov))

**Participants:**

- All SECART members
- PPI

**Objectives/Summary:**

Engage regularly with NOAA staff and partners in the region to maintain an understanding of programs and priorities. Utilize this information (regional intelligence) to inform NOAA understanding and programming. Help convey NOAA priorities to staff and partners; enable implementation of NOAA priorities in the region, including initiatives such as Habitat Blueprint and Sentinel Site Cooperatives.

SECART is called upon to provide information about and from stakeholders and NOAA entities in the region, and also to serve as ambassadors for the agency and department. SECART will engage NOAA staff and partners within the region to enhance the flow of information, especially concerning priorities and needs. One mechanism that the Regional Collaboration Teams have used to convey timely information about the regions are the "Regional Landscapes" – documents that attempt to provide a profile of the region concerning interests to NOAA. SECART will continue to produce annual updates of the profile for the Southeast and Caribbean Region to NOAA leadership and planners to (hopefully) influence NOAA's understanding of and response to the region's needs.

SECART will continue to advance NOAA initiatives, such as being asked to co-lead development of a NOAA Caribbean Strategy, to advance National Ocean Policy objectives such

as marine spatial planning, and assist with the execution of the NOAA Habitat Blueprint and the Sentinel Sites Program.

NOAA Leadership (including Line Office leadership) travels to the regions to attend events (conferences, dedications, etc), to meet with stakeholders, and to engage with NOAA staff. Regional Collaboration Teams can provide valuable logistical and information intelligence to improve the value of such visits. Regional Coordinators have established a relationship with the Program Coordination Office to better assist in planning and execution of such visits. SECART will provide such assistance when NOAA Leadership visits the region.

The objectives of this activity are to:

- Serve to enhance two-way communication between NOAA and regional partners and stakeholders
- Identify any regional emerging issues that NOAA should be aware of and communicate that information to NOAA leadership
- Serve NOAA and the Department of Commerce as needed for requests for information and services from the region
- Represent NOAA in the region
- Assist in enhancing the value of visits to the region by NOAA Leadership

#### **SECART Goals/Objectives Met:**

Goal 1 Exchange both national and regional insights to inform action..

- Objective 1. Understand regional issues and needs and transmit that information to inform NOAA programming;
- Objective 2. Enhance NOAA leadership's understanding of the region's issues and NOAA capabilities in the region;
- Objective 3. Help regional staff and partners understand NOAA's mission, goals, capabilities and constraints;
- Objective 4. Provide guidance and support in the development and implementation of NOAA-wide regional programs.

#### **Key Milestones/Tasks:**

- Regional Landscape Analysis document updated for FY16 planning (Q2)
- Quarterly accomplishments to PPI (Q1-4)
- Weekly updates to PPI for accomplishments, regional news and upcoming events (Q1-4)
- As needed assistance to enhance NOAA leadership visits to the region (Q1-4)
- Engage with NOAA staff and partners to understand regional issues and concerns
- As appropriate, participate in Strategic Execution and Evaluation process to advocate for addressing regional priorities (Q1 – Q4)
- Inform HQ of issues, concerns and events important to the region (Q1 – Q4)
- Stay aware of regional events and issues of interest to NOAA (Q1-4)
- Enhance leadership visits to the region by providing “local” intelligence with an inclusive prospective.



## ***Activity A5. Understand and represent NOAA's broad mission capabilities and accomplishments within the region***

### **Leaders:**

- Geno Olmi ([Geno.Olmi@noaa.gov](mailto:Geno.Olmi@noaa.gov))
- David Brown ([David.P.Brown@noaa.gov](mailto:David.P.Brown@noaa.gov))

### **Participants:**

- Outreach & Communications Team (Fangman, Cline, Rule, Olmi)

**Objectives/Summary:** Regional collaboration teams are one of the few entities within NOAA, and especially within the regions, that represent all of NOAA. A role of SECART is to expand awareness of NOAA's mission responsibilities, capabilities and accomplishments, as an agency, not just for a particular office. NOAA staff in the region are necessarily focused on their particular job function, but to the extent that they better understand the totality of NOAA's mission and what other NOAA staff in the region are doing, the better equipped they are to represent NOAA. Similarly, it is to NOAA's benefit that our partners and stakeholders are more aware of how NOAA works to improve their lives.

SECART will conduct a number of communications and outreach activities targeted at promoting awareness and understanding of NOAA's varying capabilities, services and programmatic priorities as they relate to regional and national priorities; and gather feedback to improve products and services. SECART will continue to build, maintain or enhance "One-NOAA in the region" outreach/inreach materials and tools previously initiated, such as regional factsheets, presentations, the SECART website, and the kiosk. SECART outreach and communications activities will require the support, input and feedback of the full SECART team.

In addition in FY15, SECART will explore, and possibly conduct, a "roundtable briefing" for congressional staff in the region. The purpose of such an event is to expand awareness of NOAA's impact in a particular state. Following the model used by the North Atlantic Team, NOAA staff would be "paired" with state agency people to discuss NOAA's role in assisting the state representatives to do their job better. Our target for this year is to explore the options and conduct one such event.

The objectives of this activity are to:

- Engage with regional staff, partners, and stakeholders to strengthen collaborative ties and build awareness in the region of NOAA's mission responsibilities and capabilities
- Through this enhances awareness, spur additional coordination and collaboration among NOAA staff and with partners.
- Utilize outreach materials to enhance such awareness of NOAA work in the region
- Explore, and possibly conduct, a "congressional roundtable" briefing in the region to showcase local and state engagement with NOAA and use of NOAA's products and services

**Cost/Funding Source:** \$500 for shipping kiosk and other supplies. In kind support from SECART members; coordinator travel for outreach captured under other regional enterprise categories.

**SECART Goals/Objectives Met:**

Goal 3: Improve awareness of NOAA's broad mission responsibilities and regional capabilities to achieve an understanding of, and respect for, the totality of NOAA's work.

- Objective 1. Elevate the awareness and value of NOAA through strategic partnerships, outreach, and communication;
- Objective 2. Build NOAA's interdisciplinary capacity and organizational integration;
- Objective 3. Improve leadership understanding of the capabilities and interconnectedness of NOAA expertise in the region;
- Objective 4. Assist in developing and tailoring engagement strategies for the regional implementation of national priorities.

**Key Milestones/Tasks:**

- Develop "fact sheet" about SECART's FY15 activities (Q2)
- Enhance SECART web site (Q1 – Q4)
- Update One-NOAA content for kiosk and track usage (Q1 – Q4)
- Update "NOAA in region" fact sheet (Q3)
- Meet with NOAA staff and partners in region to enhance awareness of NOAA's responsibilities and capabilities within the region (Q1-4)
- Explore and possibly conduct one "congressional roundtable" briefing (Q3)
- Monitor and assist SECART working groups with outreach support as needed (Q1 – Q4)
- Make One-NOAA outreach materials available for use by staff in the region (Q1 – Q4)
- Identify and utilize various forums to display One-NOAA outreach materials to partners and stakeholders (Q1 – Q4)

***Activity A6. Enhance the capacity of SECART to lead organizational integration within the region***

**Leaders:**

- Geno Olmi ([Geno.Olmi@noaa.gov](mailto:Geno.Olmi@noaa.gov))
- David Brown ([David.P.Brown@noaa.gov](mailto:David.P.Brown@noaa.gov))
- Rich Bandy ([Richard.Bandy@noaa.gov](mailto:Richard.Bandy@noaa.gov))
- Chris Taylor ([Chris.Taylor@noaa.gov](mailto:Chris.Taylor@noaa.gov))

**Objectives/ Summary:** For regional collaboration teams to be effective, they must have regular and effective coordination and communication. SECART maintains monthly conference calls and semi-annual face-to-face or virtual meetings as the key opportunities to exchange information and discuss SECART's mission, strategy, and effectiveness. SECART continues to refine the purpose and format of meetings to be more productive and efficient.



During FY15, SECART will hold two face-to-face meetings. The winter meeting will occur in January in Miami, FL. The meeting will focus on status of SECART activities and learning about NOAA and partner activities in the south Florida area. The summer meeting (tentatively planned for Charleston) will focus on progress of SECART projects, team business, and identifying FY16 priorities and activities. In addition to monthly calls and meetings, team members communicate frequently via phone and email.

During FY14, SECART adopted new strategic priority areas and changed its workgroup structure to match. During FY15 SECART will complete its FY15-18 Strategy, which will guide SECART investment over the next three years. Development and execution of the team's annual Operating Plan is a significant task within this activity. While much of the execution is contained in other AOP Activities, the planning for and development of the AOP is captured here. As part of this process, SECART will continually evaluate regional priorities of stakeholders. Through SECART workgroups and leadership, we will execute our Annual Operating Plan to provide integrated services to the region.

The objectives of this activity are to:

- Maintain and improve communication and coordination of the regional team
- Manage and improve team operations
- Maintain and enhance topical work groups
- Complete the SECART FY15-18 Strategy
- Effectively execute the FY15 Operating Plan
- Begin development of the FY16 Operating Plan
- Facilitate team functioning to achieve better coordinating and integration within the region.

**Cost/Funding Source:** \$8,800 to support team member travel to SECART meetings (if their LO is unable to cover travel costs); \$400 allocated for meeting space rental (if needed). Support from members' LOs for travel support. \$1200 for Regional Coordinator travel in support of team operations; in-kind support provided in team member time.

#### **SECART Goals/Objectives Met:**

Goal 1 Address regional priorities by connecting people and resources.

- Objective 1. Understand the capabilities of NOAA and its partners within the region and facilitate bringing those capabilities to bear on priority issues, consistent with NOAA's mission;
- Objective 2. Convene NOAA and partners together to address specific regional priorities;
- Objective 3. Support and engage regional partnerships to efficiently address shared goals

Goal 2: Exchange both national and regional insights that inform action.

- Objective 1. Understand regional issues and needs and transmit that information to inform NOAA programming;
- Objective 3. Help regional staff and partners understand NOAA's mission, goals, capabilities and constraints;

Goal 3: Improve awareness of NOAA's broad mission responsibilities and regional capabilities to achieve an understanding of, and respect for, the totality of NOAA's work.

- Objective 1. Elevate the awareness and value of NOAA through strategic partnerships, outreach, and communication;
- Objective 2. Build NOAA's interdisciplinary capacity and organizational integration;
- Objective 3. Improve leadership understanding of the capabilities and interconnectedness of NOAA expertise in the region;

#### **Key Milestones/Tasks:**

- SECART FY15-18 Strategy (Q1)
- FY15 Annual Operating Plan with spend plan (Q2)
- Draft FY16 Annual Operating Plan with spend plan (Q4)
- Winter SECART meeting (Q2)
- Summer SECART meeting (Q4)
- Convene monthly team calls and distribute notes (Q1 – Q4)
- Assist with success of work groups (Q1 – Q4)

### ***Activity A7. Improve the capacity of NOAA's inter-regional and national integrated services***

#### **Leaders:**

- Geno Olmi ([Geno.Olmi@noaa.gov](mailto:Geno.Olmi@noaa.gov))
- David Brown ([David.P.Brown@noaa.gov](mailto:David.P.Brown@noaa.gov))
- Rich Bandy ([Richard.Bandy@noaa.gov](mailto:Richard.Bandy@noaa.gov))

#### **Participants:**

- Regional Team Leads and Coordinators
- PPI
- Regional Collaboration Advisory Group

**Objectives/Summary:** Regional collaboration is a network of networks and it is imperative to maintain the networks at all levels: within the region, but also nationally. Regional collaboration teams report to the NOAA Executive Panel (NEP), which is led by the Deputy Undersecretary for Operations and includes the deputy assistant administrators of each line office as well as other programmatic and administrative offices within NOAA. SECART will work closely with the other regional teams, PPI, and the NEP to advance regional collaboration at all levels.

SECART will remain active in bi-weekly Regional Coordinator calls, monthly Regional Team Lead calls, and other activities that serve to coordinate and integrate the network. The SECART RC will serve on the planning committee for the annual RC meeting as well as the annual Regional Collaboration Workshop – both to be held in FY15. Finally, SECART will explore opportunities to work with the North Atlantic Regional Team and the Gulf of Mexico Regional Team to identify fruitful areas of integration.

The objectives of this activity are to:

- Improve inter-regional coordination and identify any regional emerging issues that SECART can help address
- Support the NEP and PPI in oversight responsibilities, and influence strategic direction setting, for NOAA regional collaboration
- Help plan and execute the annual Regional Coordinator meeting (Nov)
- Help plan and execute the annual Regional Collaboration Workshop (April)
- Continue participation in network-wide coordination activities (calls, meetings, etc)
- Pursue opportunities for cross-regional coordination on topics of mutual interest

**Cost/Funding Source:** \$2000 for Regional Coordinator travel Annual ReCo workshop, Regional Coordinator meeting, and attending other RCT meetings; \$1500 to support SECART RTL travel to the annual ReCo workshop; in kind support of team members; time of Coordinator and Team Lead.

### **SECART Goals/Objectives Met:**

Goal 2: Exchange both national and regional insights that inform action.

- Objective 1. Understand regional issues and needs and transmit that information to inform NOAA programming;
- Objective 3. Help regional staff and partners understand NOAA's mission, goals, capabilities and constraints;

Goal 3: Improve awareness of NOAA's broad mission responsibilities and regional capabilities to achieve an understanding of, and respect for, the totality of NOAA's work.

- Objective 1. Elevate the awareness and value of NOAA through strategic partnerships, outreach, and communication;
- Objective 2. Build NOAA's interdisciplinary capacity and organizational integration;
- Objective 4. Assist in developing and tailoring engagement strategies for the regional implementation of national priorities

### **Key Milestones/Tasks:**

- Regional Coordinator meeting (Q1)
- National Regional Collaboration Workshop (Q3)
- Quarterly and annual reports of accomplishments (Q4)
- Participate in bi-weekly Regional Coordinator calls (Q1 – Q4)
- Participate in monthly Regional Team Lead calls (Q1 – Q4)
- Support PPI as needed to further regional collaboration (Q1 – Q4)
- Participate in Strategic Execution and Evaluation process as appropriate to advocate for addressing regional priorities (Q1 – Q4)
- Participate in the planning and execution of the Annual Regional Collaboration Workshop (Q1 – Q3)
- Explore opportunities with the NART and GoMRCT for better coordination on topics of mutual interest.

# Priority: Improve resilience of communities to extreme events and climate change

*Activity B1. Improve Community Resiliency through the facilitation of improved rip current and wave run up modeling and communication.*

## **Leader(s):**

Rich Bandy ([Richard.Bandy@noaa.gov](mailto:Richard.Bandy@noaa.gov))

## **Participants:**

Nicole Kurkowski (NWS OST)  
Greg Dusek (NOAA CO-OPS)  
Rich Okulski (NWS WFO Caribou, ME - NART)  
Tony Mignone (NWS WFO Caribou, ME)  
Rich Bandy (NWS WFO Morehead City, NC)  
Jeff Orrock (WFO Wakefield, VA)  
Andre van der Westhuysen (NWS OST)  
Roberto Padilla (NWS OST)  
Pablo Santos (NWS WFO Miami, FL)  
Alex Gibbs (NWS WFO Miami, FL/Honolulu, HI)  
Charlie Paxton (NWS WFO Tampa Bay, FL)  
Danielle Nagele (NOS CO-OPS)  
Wayne Presnell (NWS OCCWS)  
Deborah Jones (NWS OCCWS)  
Joshua Brown (NOAA/Sea Grant)  
Spencer Rogers (NC Sea Grant)  
Chris Ellis (NOAA OCM)

## **Objectives/Summary:**

This is a joint project with the NART to facilitate an expansion and standardization of wave run up and rip current modeling and forecasting and to explore with partners a better method to communicate and visualize each.

Wave run up forecasting collaboration between the NART and SECART began several years ago with efforts to explore modeling developed by Dr. Hilary Stockdon of the USGS. Since that time, National Weather Service offices in the Northeast have received additional support through the NART and trained many offices to survey and implement wave run up, erosion, overwash, and inundation forecasts at point locations along the coast, utilizing modeling equations that have been modified from Dr. Stockdon's equations which were developed for sandy beaches as opposed to the rocky and often bulkheaded locations in the northeast.

While those efforts were ongoing in the northeast, significant work had been done in the SECART region with a collaborative NWS NOS effort to model rip currents. WFO Newport, NC worked with Dr. Greg Dusek of NOAA CO-OPS on developing a statistical model for rip currents that was validated on the NC coast. Work on the rip current modeling expanded to WFO Miami, FL which helped to couple the model to NWS locally run high resolution wave modeling called the Nearshore Wave Prediction System

Both the NART and SECART region would benefit from sharing communication on these efforts and developing a common path forward as an agency.

In FY2015, these efforts lined up with a project envisioned by NOS and NWS to expand rip current modeling and communication work into the Mid-Atlantic Region, which was being funded by the NOAA Coastal Storms Program. As a result the efforts have been combined to fully leverage all available resources to tackle both of these worthy projects, which feature significant improvements in modeling, forecasting, and communicating these types of threats to coastal communities.

Leveraging all available resources, the multi-regional, multi-line office, and multi-agency team will work to tackle several goals with a large workshop. The workshop will help to set a path forward on modeling wave run-up, erosion, overwash and inundation and on modeling rip currents. A strategy document will outline that path forward and be utilized to help craft an implementation strategy for modeling and forecasting both hazards. The workshop will also feature a day to interact with various partners specifically on rip current communication and forecast visualization techniques.

We will engage in planning and conducting a joint NART/SECART workshop. We should also help to seek funding resources to assist with further development of the coupled wave run up and storm surge model to accelerate its development. to benefit our region. The goal of the workshop would be scalable based on amount available for investment, but should attempt to develop a plan for operational testing and implementation, working with NOS and NWS. It could also attempt to tie it in to the NOAA Storm Surge Roadmap plan. Potentially a workshop could include Sea Grant personnel which could assist with obtaining feedback from partners on potential visualization ideas for the new modeling information. Target Date and location for a workshop is April 2015 in Norfolk. This has the potential to be a multi-year project working in phases to help achieve delivery of new products and services to benefit the region.

**Cost/Funding Source:** SECART funds of \$5000 will compliment NART funding of approximately \$5500 and leverage a significant NOAA Coastal Storms Program funded effort which brings \$65000 to the effort.

### **SECART Goals/Objectives Met**

Goal 1: Facilitate the development of emerging science and technology solutions to enable regional stakeholders to better plan for and respond to the risks posed by hazards and climate change.

- Objective 2: Connect people and resources to enhance existing and develop new products and services

- Objective 3: Encourage and facilitate the transition of research to develop societally-relevant applications

#### **Key Milestones/Tasks:**

- Plan and hold a coastal resiliency workshop focusing on improved rip current and wave run-up forecasting in April of 2015.
  - The workshop will include focus group sessions with key partners including but not limited to emergency management, life guards and media to explore ways to improve communication of rip current hazards and the new model data and higher resolution forecasts that the model data will allow.
  - NWS offices to implement wave run-up forecasts so that all of the NART region will be producing such forecasts.
  - The group will explore ways to expand and modify techniques developed in the northeast to the challenging and frequently changing coastlines of the southeast and implement techniques at NWS offices in the SECART Region
  - The workshop will explore better ways to visualize and communicate wave run up hazards to our partners and the public through focus group sessions.
  - A needs assessment document and strategy for transitioning social science and messaging work from the Great Lakes to coastal beaches will be developed;
  - A strategy for expanding the rip current forecast model and the transition to operations will be developed;
  - Documentation of potential enhancements to the USLA pilot and MDL web form to support model validation will be compiled.
  - A strategy for expanding the wave run-up work from the Northeast to the Southeast and beyond; A strategy for expanding the forecasts beyond point based to entire coast lines will be developed;
  - A needs assessment document and strategy for utilizing social science to help shape communication and messaging of the wave run-up threat and impacts.

### ***Activity B2. Completion of SECART/Sea Grant Storm Surge Measurement Project.***

#### **Leader(s):**

Rich Bandy ([Richard.Bandy@noaa.gov](mailto:Richard.Bandy@noaa.gov))

Geno Olmi ([Geno.Olmi@noaa.gov](mailto:Geno.Olmi@noaa.gov))

Darin Figurskey ([Darin.Figurskey@noaa.gov](mailto:Darin.Figurskey@noaa.gov))

Chuck Hopkinson ([CHopkins@uga.edu](mailto:CHopkins@uga.edu))

#### **Participants:**

Scott Kennedy (NWS WFO Morehead City, NC)

David Newcomer (NOAA NGS Florida retired)

Spencer Rogers (NC Sea Grant)

Brian McCallum (USGS GA)

Mark Dickman (USGS FL)

Jeanne Robbins (USGS NC)  
Carolyn Curran (NOAA NOS Beaufort, NC Lab)  
Chris Taylor (NOAA NOS Beaufort, NC Lab)  
Scott Lokken (NOAA NGS NC)

### **Objectives/Summary:**

The goal of this effort is to improve reliability of obtaining post storm information on storm surge inundation following significant events to improve modeling efforts as well as impact identification and communication by the National Weather Service.

This will be the final year of a project funded through a Sea Grant Regional Teams Grant. We plan to wrap this project up this year by purchasing 5 GPS Survey units to be staged with Sea Grant Programs in NC, SC, GA, FL, and Puerto Rico. They will be shared with NWS Offices to assist with benchmarking locations that would be prone to large surges and could yield good high water marks, as well as measuring high water mark finds after a storm. We will plan to hold four workshops across the SE to bring together USGS, Sea Grant, and NWS staff to plan the best locations for USGS gauge deployment and to train on the methodology to add to that with high water mark surveys using our GPS equipment. about \$19,000 remains from grant funding, but we will need to offset some of that with SECART funds for federal travel. Fed travel for the workshops could be in the \$7000 range. We would scale the workshops and travel offered based on availability of funding.

**Cost/Funding Source:** SECART funds of \$3000 for federal travel will supplement the remaining \$19000 from the original Sea Grant supplied Regional Collaboration Grant. Additional Funding for a workshop in NC to incorporate a USGS SWATH Network for ecological monitoring is allocated within Activity C4.

### **SECART Goals/Objectives Met**

Goal 1: Facilitate the development of emerging science and technology solutions to enable regional stakeholders to better plan for and respond to the risks posed by hazards and climate change.

- Objective 3: Encourage and facilitate the transition of research to develop societally-relevant applications

Goal 2: Facilitate the application of products, services, and knowledge to enhance the capacity of communities to understand, plan for, and respond to risks posed by hazards and climate change.

- Objective 2: Facilitate the application of science and tools in communities to assist with risk identification and the development of mitigation and adaptation strategies

### **Key Milestones/Tasks:**

- Purchase GPS Survey Equipment and Deliver to Sea Grant Offices
- Test Equipment
- Give Presentation on Effort at 2015 AMS Conference
- Finalize Guide
- Hold South Florida Workshop



- Hold NC Workshop at NOAA Beaufort Lab
- Hold SC Workshop in Charleston
- Hold North and Central Florida Workshop in Gainesville

### ***Activity B3. Facilitate improvements in rip current modeling and observations.***

#### **Leader(s):**

Rich Bandy ([Richard.Bandy@noaa.gov](mailto:Richard.Bandy@noaa.gov))

Geno Olmi ([Geno.Olmi@noaa.gov](mailto:Geno.Olmi@noaa.gov))

Debra Hernandez ([Debra@secoora.org](mailto:Debra@secoora.org))

#### **Partners:**

Spencer Rogers (NC Sea Grant)

Greg Dusek (NOAA CO-OPS)

Harvey Seim (UNC Chapel Hill)

#### **Objectives/Summary:**

The goal of this effort is to improve rip current observations on sparsely guarded beaches using alternative observations and modeling approaches in addition to life guards to assist with rip current model validation efforts.

SECART sponsored discussions with NWS (national), NOS-COOPS, and SECOORA about validating/improving a rip current forecast for the southeast region. This is an expansion of a rip current modeling collaboration with Dr. Greg Dusek of NOS and the NWS Newport, NC WFO. Currently NWS WFO Miami, FL is also testing out the new rip current modeling. A proposal was developed to present to SECOORA to obtain additional rip current observations in NC to help validate the model and test new observational techniques such as cameras.

This effort ties in directly with activity B1.

**Cost/Funding Source:** SECOORA issued a mini-proposal announcement to fund this project.

#### **SECART Goals/Objectives Met**

Goal 1: Facilitate the development of emerging science and technology solutions to enable regional stakeholders to better plan for and respond to the risks posed by hazards and climate change.

- Objective 2: Connect people and resources to enhance existing and develop new products and services
- Objective 3: Encourage and facilitate the transition of research to develop societally-relevant applications

#### **Key Milestones/Tasks:**

- Collaborate with partners on needs and scope of potential project



- SECOORA releases solicitation for Regional Coastal Ocean Observing System: Rip Currents Forecast Model Validation Project. [http://secoora.org/webfm\\_send/1242](http://secoora.org/webfm_send/1242)
- Submission selected
- Equipment deployed and data collected for 2015 season
  - Improved observations on the NC Coast to validate rip current model
- Results are analyzed and inform on and validate NOS/NWS rip current modeling

### ***Activity B4. Hurricane / Resilience Webinar Series.***

#### **Leader(s):**

Erica Rule

#### **Partners:**

Roberto Garcia (MIC WFO San Juan)

Kyle Ward

Dan Brown (NHC Hurricane Specialist)

Steve Naglic (WCM WFO Columbia, SC)

Jeff Payne

Geno Olmi

#### **Objectives/Summary:**

The goal of this effort is to educate key partners to improvements in hurricane and storm surge forecasting efforts, or potentially other hazards, while promoting awareness of cross line office activities and SECART involvement.

Hurricane webinars have been a very successful effort in the past and should be continued to help inform NOAA partners and stakeholders of the latest advances in hurricane research and forecasts related to tropical cyclones. The project team intends to add a component to the webinars on community resilience or climate change. Possibilities for expansion of topics include information about Office for Coastal management extreme events related tools, risk communication products, and community resilience strategies. This would help make the effort more cross-LO in nature. We plan to record the webinars this year and post them on our SECART Website. We will promote these across a wide range of partners, including utilizing contacts from Kyle Ward in the marine community and potentially, tying it in with the SE and Caribbean Climate Community of Practice, and engaging the Caribbean 5Cs. Some Participants asked for certificates to show the bosses they participated. We may develop these as well, although SECART will not be able to establish anything for official personnel management purposes. We also look forward to serving the Spanish-speaking community in the region.

Our tentative schedule for webinars is as follows:

- Wednesday, April 29<sup>th</sup>, NHC and FO product updates; Tentative speaker: Dan Brown (NHC)
- Wednesday, May 20<sup>th</sup> OR Wednesday, May 26<sup>th</sup>; Storm Surge product updates; Tentative speaker: Robbie Berg (NHC)

- Wednesday, July 15; Regional hurricane season related activities, Possible topics: Hurricane Research updates (AOML/HRD), Post-storm navigation response/port openings (Coast Survey), Wave Run-Up (Carlos or Andre Van der Westhuysen)
- Wednesday, May 19<sup>th</sup>; Spanish language webinar; NHC product updates and Wave Run-up; Tentative speakers: Roberto Garcia (WFO - PR) and Todd Kimberlain (NHC)

**Cost/Funding Source:** SECART will leverage existing staff expertise within the region to plan and execute the webinars. No SECART funds committed to this effort.

**SECART Goals/Objectives Met :**

Goal 2: Facilitate the application of products, services, and knowledge to enhance the capacity of communities to understand, plan for, and respond to risks posed by hazards and climate change.

- Objective 1: Target outreach and communication efforts to facilitate delivery of resilience-relevant information to communities

**Key Milestones/Tasks/Deliverables:**

- Assemble planning team
- Select topics, speakers, and dates
- Promote webinars widely
- Execute webinars
- Record and Post on SECART Website
- Provide “Unofficial” Certificates of Completion as requested

***Activity B5. Engage and support the Southeast and Caribbean Climate Community of Practice.***

**Leader(s):**

Geno Olmi  
Ellen Mecray

**Partners:**

Bethney Ward  
Liz Fly  
David Brown  
Stephanie Fauver  
Climate CoP Steering Committee

**Objectives/Summary:**

SECART and Sea Grant have provided funds and technical expertise in the past to build a Climate Community of Practice (CCoP) for extension specialists and coastal managers in the region. The purpose of the CCoP is to enhance the capacity of the community by sharing

accurate and timely information, tools, interpretation, and assistance on climate issues. The CCoP is now led by a Steering Team made up of climate professionals in the region. Priorities identified for FY15 include fostering a webinar series, forging a closer relationship with the Gulf of Mexico CCoP, highlighting Community Rating System activities, and begin planning for the next CCoP Workshop. The CCoP will also consider holding State Climate Roundtables that bring federal climate tools to the concerns and requirements expressed by the state's environmental, coastal, transportation, and fish and game agencies. The CCoP Steering Team will prioritize how to best utilize the funds at this time, then develop a plan for conducting the activity. SECART members Ward and Olmi serve on the Steering Team.

**Cost/Funding Source:** SECART is allocating \$4000 total; \$3000 is allocated to priorities as determined by the CCoP Steering Committee; \$1000 allowance for SECART member travel related to this activity.

- RC travel (included elsewhere)
- other SECART member travel \$1000
- CCoP Priorities \$3000

### **SECART Goals/Objectives Met**

Goal 2: Facilitate the application of products, services, and knowledge to enhance the capacity of communities to understand, plan for, and respond to risks posed by hazards and climate change.

- Objective 3: Sustain and enhance the Southeast and Caribbean Climate Community of Practice as a forum for improving climate and resilience related outreach

### **Key Milestones/Tasks:**

- Convene Steering Team to discuss priorities for expenditures in FY15
- Reach consensus on priorities and develop plan for implementation
- Proceed with activity(ies)
- Provide travel support for NOAA personnel to attend CCoP related meeting in the region.
- Initiate discussion with the Gulf of Mexico Climate Community of Practice to improve coordination across the two groups (at least two Steering Team members will attend the GoM CCOP meeting in May)
- Participate in developing the CCoP webinar series

### ***Activity B6. Improve inter-NOAA communication and understanding of responses to large scale disasters within the SECART region.***

#### **Leader(s):**

Geno Olmi ([Geno.Olmi@noaa.gov](mailto:Geno.Olmi@noaa.gov))

Kyle Ward ([Kyle.Ward@noaa.gov](mailto:Kyle.Ward@noaa.gov))

#### **Partners:**

Jeff Payne

Roberto Garcia

Scott Lokken

### **Objectives/Summary:**

The goal of this project is to improve internal NOAA understanding of various line office roles in disaster response, thereby increasing capacity for more comprehensive and coordinated response. It is clear that those NOAA personnel charged with representing the agency in disaster response know their lines of communication internally and with other response agencies. But how might other parts of the agency support this role? How might we coordinate with other NOAA partners?

This is a long term goal that would be completed in stages. For the first year we propose to interact with NOAA Office of Response and Restoration Scientific Service Coordinators (SSCs) that cover our region to start a discussion on where they see opportunity to improve coordination for response to a disaster and develop ideas for enhancing coordination in the coming years.

Based on that discussion we could potentially develop anything from a webinar to small conference to guide a series of table top exercises to bring NOAA entities within the region together to make them better prepared to deal with a disaster. We recommend a virtual discussion with a small group working with the coordinators and potentially having one or more of the SSCs come to a SECART meeting and devote a session to discussing this topic with the entire SECART group. Costs involved would be for travel funding for SSC Coordinators if needed. We also intend to engage Charlie Henry of NOAA's Gulf of Mexico Disaster Response Center to see how the regional team might better coordinate with that group.

One possible product/outcome could be development of a "response directory and guide" fashioned after the one developed in the Great Lakes Region following the 2010 Enbridge oil spill. The guide provides contact information for topical specialists and outlined who has direct responsibilities in the event of a spill or other disaster. No such resource currently exists for our region.

In coordination with the response mode, NOAA (SECART) can examine efforts to engage in pre-disaster planning activities with partners (e.g. GSAA) that motivates greater attention to future risk issues and the need to incorporate recovery planning into the continuum of activities leading to an improved resilience posture for coastal communities.

**Cost/Funding Source:** SECART will leverage existing staff expertise within the region to execute this and has allocated \$800 to cover potential travel related costs.

### **SECART Goals/Objectives Met**

Goal 3: Enhance organizational awareness and coordination within the region to improve response to a natural or man-made disaster.

- Objective 1: Identify agency capabilities within the region for response to disasters
- Objective 2: Improve communication among appropriate NOAA entities both within and outside the region for a better understanding of capabilities and roles during a disaster response

**Key Milestones/Tasks:**

- Collaborate with Scientific Support Coordinators for the region, Brad Benggio and Frank Csulak, to identify opportunities to improve NOAA's overall response capability, mostly related to pre-disaster planning
- Hold conversation with NOAA's Disaster Response Center to further identify opportunities for enhancing regional response capabilities.
- Scope more detailed goals for project and realistic SECART role
- Develop 2-3 year implementation plan for priority activities.

## **Priority: Promote the sustainability of the region's living marine resources and the habitats upon which they depend**

### ***Activity C1. Enhance coordination of benthic habitat mapping prioritization and planning in the Caribbean and Southeast US***

**SECART Lead(s):**

Chris Taylor ([Chris.Taylor@noaa.gov](mailto:Chris.Taylor@noaa.gov))

Kyle Ward ([Kyle.Ward@noaa.gov](mailto:Kyle.Ward@noaa.gov))

**Participants:**

Virginia Fay ([Virginia.Fay@noaa.gov](mailto:Virginia.Fay@noaa.gov))

Tim Battista (NOS, NCCOS, CCMA, [Tim.Battista@noaa.gov](mailto:Tim.Battista@noaa.gov))

**Other Partners:**

NOAA staff and partners, state or territorial coastal managers and academic research partners in the region, particularly members of the Healthy Ecosystems Technical Team in GSAA and mapping coordination conducted by the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council.

**Objectives/Summary:**

Offices in NOAA conduct seafloor mapping to support safe navigation (OCS), ocean planning (OCM and NCCOS) and resources assessments (NMFS). Various offices and programs use interactive prioritization planning tools like SeaSketch (<http://www.seasketch.org>), to identify and prioritize mapping effort within NOAA and partners to ensure efficient use and reduce duplication of government efforts and assets to fulfill regional mapping needs. NOS's NCCOS has also developed an interactive GIS-based prioritization tool to specifically identify habitat mapping and ecosystem assessment needs by partners and stakeholders. SECART can assist and facilitate greater awareness of the mapping activities conducted by NOAA in the SE and Caribbean Region. The SECART can also facilitate access to these mapping prioritization tools for NOAA offices and our partners in the US Caribbean and the Southeast US (emphasis on SE

US since other coordination is under way in Caribbean through Coral). This activity will improve coordination between NOAA offices and result in more efficient use of government ship time use for habitat mapping in the SECART region.

**Cost/Funding Source:** \$2,000 for travel by SECART member or partner to meet with regional partnership organization (e.g., Governors South Atlantic Alliance, NERRS, CZM programs).

**SECART Goals/Objectives Met:**

Goal: Improve coordination and focus on coastal marine habitat conservation and restoration.

- Objective 2: Improve awareness of NOAA's mapping activities in the region and access to mapping products;
- Objective 3: Promote development of tools to identify emerging habitat mapping priorities for NOAA programs and partners

**Key Milestones/Deliverables and Tasks:**

- One-page summary of existing mapping activities and inventories in the region (possibly available through OCS) (Q3)
  - Develop materials on habitat mapping activities and planning instructions for SECART members to carry to line-office
  - Confer with NOAA offices conducting mapping in the Caribbean and Southeast US
- Outreach to NOAA offices and partners (Q2-4).
  - Identify conference call, webinar or in-person meeting to inventory benthic habitat mapping needs
  - Facilitate evaluation of mapping prioritization and planning tools like the SeaSketch project managed by Office of Coast Survey and a customized tool developed by NCCOS
- Initial inventory of mapping needs in the SE US (Q4).

***Activity C2. Support selection, rollout, and implementation of Habitat Blueprint Focus Areas in the Southeast and Caribbean.***

**SECART Lead(s):**

Virginia Fay ([Virginia.Fay@noaa.gov](mailto:Virginia.Fay@noaa.gov))

Aleta Hohn ([Aleta.Hohn@noaa.gov](mailto:Aleta.Hohn@noaa.gov))

Geno Olmi ([Geno.Olmi@noaa.gov](mailto:Geno.Olmi@noaa.gov))

Bethney Ward ([Bethney.Ward@noaa.gov](mailto:Bethney.Ward@noaa.gov))

**Participants:**

Dana Wusinich-Mendez, NOAA Coral Reef Conservation Program

**Objectives/Summary:**

SECART facilitated the Habitat Blueprint Focus Area selection process for the Southeast and Caribbean in FY2014. Two sites were selected for NOAA's Habitat Blueprint initiative by the Focus Area Selection Team (FAST) for the Southeast and Caribbean region. The SECART

Coordinator and several team members participated in the FAST and the focus area selection process, including developing site recommendations and seeking stakeholder feedback. The two focus areas will be approved by the NOCC Executive Committee (December 2014) and will include Biscayne Bay in southeast Florida and the Northeast Reserves/Culebra in Puerto Rico. Proposed conservation activities for Biscayne Bay include reducing the frequency and intensity of algal blooms; restoring, improving and conserving essential and critical habitat for fish and protected species; restoring and maintaining sustainable fish stocks; reducing the impact of marine debris; and promoting reduction of hardened shoreline structures. Proposed conservation activities for the Northeast Reserves/Culebra include expanding coral habitat restoration; reducing land-based sources of pollution to improve water quality and enhance wetlands, mangroves, seagrasses, and coral reef habitats; and reducing impacts of recreational use of coastal and marine habitats and resources.

SECART is well-equipped to provide regional knowledge and connections to stakeholders through direct participation in the Habitat Blueprint Focus Area Selection Team for the Southeast & Caribbean Region. Several SECART members, including the Coordinator, are on the FAST.

**Cost/Funding Source:** In-kind.

**SECART Goals/Objectives Met:**

Goal: Improve coordination and focus on coastal marine habitat conservation and restoration.

- Objective: Promote NOAA's Habitat Blueprint Framework and regional habitat conservation initiatives in the Southeast US and Caribbean.

**Key Milestones/Deliverables and Tasks:**

- Assist FAST to develop final recommendations for Focus Areas and accompanying background materials (Q1)
  - Assist NOAA with promoting Focal Areas: Biscayne Bay, Florida and Northeast Reserve, Puerto Rico
- Support NOAA with local roll-out of Focus Area selections; identify staff and partners best suited to serve on respective implementation team (Q2)
  - Organize initial meeting to identify key members for implementation teams
- Assist with drafting implementation plan and Federal Funding Opportunity for approval by NOAA by connecting partners with the implementation plan process (Q2-4)
  - Participate in developing Federal Funding Opportunity through NOAA Fisheries that will provide funding to partners to implement Habitat Blueprint priorities
  - Participate in developing implementation plans for Biscayne Bay Focus Area

***Activity C3. Support the North Carolina Sentinel Site Cooperative.***

**SECART Lead(s):**

Aleta Hohn ([Aleta.Hohn@noaa.gov](mailto:Aleta.Hohn@noaa.gov))

Rich Bandy ([Richard.Bandy@noaa.gov](mailto:Richard.Bandy@noaa.gov))



**Participants:**

Carolyn Currin – NOAA, NCCOS, Center for Coastal Fisheries and Habitat Research  
Rebecca Ellin –N.C. Coastal Reserve and National Estuarine Research Reserve  
Whitney Jenkins –N.C. Coastal Reserve and National Estuarine Research Reserve  
Dave Meyer – NOAA, NMFS, Center for Coastal Fisheries and Habitat Research  
Tancred Miller – N.C. Division of Coastal Management  
Karsten Shein – NOAA, National Climatic Data Center

**Objectives/Summary:**

The Sentinel Site in NC is one of only four Sentinel Sites in the US, and the sites are considered a NOAA priority. SECART has supported the NC Sentinel Site Cooperative (NCSSC) since its inception. Further, in September 2014, the National Sea Grant Program and the Sentinel Site program in HQ provided funding to support a half-time coordinator for each Site (joint funding from National Sea Grant and NOS). The workplan for the coordinator is determined by the Core Management Team, which includes representatives from SECART, other NOAA staff, state agencies, and academia, and is based on the Implementation Plan developed upon the establishment of the Sentinel Site. SECART participates on the Core Management Team and will continue to work with NCSSC to facilitate transferability of the science and application of the NCSSC to other areas in the region.

Other partners include: Sentinel Site Cooperative Core Management Team; NOAA, National Weather Service; NOAA, NOS; NOAA, NMFS; NOAA, NESDIS (National Climatic Data Center/SSP Liaison); North Carolina Department of Coastal Management; North Carolina Coastal Reserve and National Estuarine Research Reserve; University of North Carolina Wilmington; N.C. Sea Grant and Water Resources Research Institute.

**Cost/Funding Source:** In kind.

**SECART Goals/Objectives Met:**

Goal 2: Enhance awareness of risks to living marine resources and habitats.

- Objective 1: Improve regional awareness of impacts from climate variability, including extreme weather events, on natural systems

**Key Milestones/Tasks:**

- Review and provide letters of support for proposals submitted in response to the 2015 NOAA Ecological Effects of Sea Level Rise FFO and the NOAA Climate Program Office Coastal and Ocean Climate Applications (COCA) FFO; the funding priority for these FFOs will be for research conducted in Sentinel Sites (Q1)
- Meet with NC Coastal Atlas staff to discuss how to include Cooperative information in the bibliography function of the atlas. (Q1)
- Promote NCSSC at formal and informal meetings and symposia. (Q1-4)
- Update inventory of research conducted within the Sentinel Site, including trying to add new participants. (Q2)
- Update the NCSSC one-pager for use in communicating the existence of, goals, and activities of the NCSSC. (Q2)
- Review and update the NCSSC Implementation Plan and work plan (Q3)



***Activity C4. SWaTH Network in the Southeast: Initiating a rapid response team to deploy wave and water level sensors to measure high water and storm inundation with impacts to coastal habitats***

**SECART Lead(s):**

Chris Taylor ([Chris.Taylor@noaa.gov](mailto:Chris.Taylor@noaa.gov))

Rich Bandy ([Richard.Bandy@noaa.gov](mailto:Richard.Bandy@noaa.gov))

**Partipants:**

Carolyn Currin ([Carolyn.Currin@noaa.gov](mailto:Carolyn.Currin@noaa.gov))

**Objectives/Summary:**

The USGS established the Surge, Wave, and Tide Hydrodynamic (SWaTH) Network as a pre-emptive series of sensor platforms in the mid-Atlantic region to provide data to measure wave and storm surge, water levels to calibrate hydrodynamic models and impacts from coastal storms. As described in the Coastal Resiliency Activity B2, and working with USGS, SECART will host a workshop in the SE region seeking input from partners in ecosystem and ecological sciences to further extend the SWaTH network or similar water level sensor platforms to improve inundation monitoring and modeling. A workshop hosted in Beaufort, NC will include specific focus on establishing SWaTH sensor platforms linked to habitat related research on the ecological impacts from sealevel rise, erosion and inundation from coastal storms on the coastal and estuarine habitats. Supporting and growing regional partnerships to enhance coastal resiliency is at the core of SECARTs mission

**Cost/Funding Source:** \$3,400 (\$2,000 to support travel by regional partners to attend workshop in Beaufort; \$1,400 to provide supplies for additional SWaTH or similar sensor platforms). The activity leverages existing resources managed by NOAA NCCOS in Beaufort and their partners, including surveyed surface elevation tables in salt marsh habitats, annual marsh vegetation surveys and estuarine shoreline maps.

**SECART Goals/Objectives Met:**

Goal 2: Enhance awareness of risks to living marine resources and habitats.

- Objective 1: Improve regional awareness of impacts from climate variability, including extreme weather events, on natural systems. .

**Key Milestones/Tasks:**

- Storm surge and inundation workshop co-hosted by Resiliency Workgroup lead and held in Beaufort, NC to connect wave-run-up and storm surge modeling with ecological studies to understand impacts and resiliency and establish water level and related sensors to address common research and modeling objectives. (Q2)
  - Engage USGS and partners in mid-Atlantic on status of extending SWaTH Network to SE region.

- Invite investigators and partners from SE region with expertise in coastal habitat resiliency and those studying coastal elevation, sea level rise and inundation impacts.

***Activity C5. Inventory regional datasets on the dynamics of fisheries ecosystems to explore emerging ecoforecasting goals in the southeast***

**SECART Lead(s):**

Chris Taylor ([chris.taylor@noaa.gov](mailto:chris.taylor@noaa.gov))

Scott Cross ([Scott.Cross@noaa.gov](mailto:Scott.Cross@noaa.gov))

**Participants:**

Todd Kellison (NMFS SEFSC)

Jeffrey Buckel (NC State University)

**Summary:**

NCCOS and NMFS SEFSC Beaufort maintain the longest, continuously run time-series of larval fish ingress into central North Carolina estuaries. Started in 1986, the time series provides indices of abundance for early life-stages of over 100 species of estuarine-dependent fishes. Past studies have found that the time series is a predictor of later life stage abundance for several species and may provide indications of oceanographic conditions that support production and survival. A partnership was formed to develop comparative database for similar larval fish ingress patterns in estuaries of New Jersey and South Carolina. A database containing the complete time series will be delivered by the SE Area Monitoring and Assessment Program (SEAMAP) in late FY2015. The time series managed by NOAA Beaufort Laboratory requires additional attention to develop a historical reference and metadata document to describe the sampling methodology and ensure quality in the data (these documents already exist for similar sampling programs operated by Rutgers University, University of South Carolina, and state fisheries management agencies). Furthermore, additional datasets exist for environmental data such as tide, salinity and temperature that may influence larval ingress and recruitment of early life stages of fishes. The objective is to improve availability of fishery ecosystem datasets managed by NOAA to provide data for the study of climate impacts and ecosystem processes in the SE region. This activity also links to emerging discussions on developing ecoforecasting tools for fisheries and habitat change in the region.

Key partners in this activity include: NC State University, University of South Carolina, SC Department of Natural Resources, NC Division of Marine Fisheries and Georgia Department of Natural Resources and regional NERRS programs.

**Cost/Funding Source:** \$7,500 to support a research assistant at NOAA Beaufort Laboratory.

**SECART Goals/Objectives Met:**

Goal 2: Enhance awareness of risks to living marine resources and habitats.

- Objective 2: Identify and prioritize emerging regional needs for NOAA ecological modeling and forecast tools with a focus on waterborne pathogens and health of biological communities.

#### **Key Milestones/Deliverables:**

- Meet/conference call with investigators in regional larval fish monitoring programs to assess remaining gaps in data inventory (Q2-3)
- Historical report and metadata on the Beaufort Bridgenet Ichthyoplankton Program
  - Assemble historical information on the Beaufort Bridgenet Ichthyoplankton Program
  - Assemble and collate additional environmental data such as tide/water level data, and historical temperature and salinity data available from NOAA Data Centers or regional partners
- Initial inventory of other fishery ecosystem datasets in the SE region (Q4)

#### ***Activity C6. Identify priorities in ecoforecasting goals for Southeast US related to fisheries ecosystems.***

##### **SECART Lead(s):**

Scott Cross ([Scott.Cross@noaa.gov](mailto:Scott.Cross@noaa.gov))

Debra Hernandez ([debra@secoora.org](mailto:debra@secoora.org))

##### **Objectives/Summary:**

On February 21, 2014, SECOORA hosted a virtual meeting that brought together the program lead for the NOAA Ecological Forecasting Roadmap (EFR), a number of SECOORA's academic partners, and leads for the EFR Teams. Regional researchers showcased ongoing or planned research, monitoring, and environmental forecasting efforts, and NOAA EFR team members provided high-level discussion of EFR aims and program structure. As a follow-on, SECOORA and SECART will facilitate one or more webinars that drill down into specifics of current or planned EFR forecast activities, with the aim of better communicating to regional partners and constituents what NOAA ecological forecast products are planned for the region, how the products are generated, and what gaps or deficiencies are known to exist in current observational and modeling capabilities. The objectives of this activity are to open and maintain lines of communication: (1) between potential regional consumers of EFR products and the EFR Forecast Teams so that the former understand the products and the latter understand the regional needs; and (2) between regional research and observing entities and EFR Forecast Teams, so that the teams may make better use of regional capabilities.

Of the four established EFR forecast teams, the Pathogens and Habitat teams are likely the most relevant in the SECART geography, with HABs and coastal hypoxia as secondary concerns. This activity will focus on having the EFR Pathogens and Habitat forecast team leads brief local constituents on current and planned forecast products and approaches, and will provide opportunities for constituents to provide feedback. Likewise, the regional research community will be able to provide input on local capabilities and capacities, potentially leading to further

collaboration opportunities. This activity will identify areas of alignment between NOAA's Ecological Forecasting Roadmap priorities.

**Cost/Funding Source:** In kind.

**SECART Goals/Objectives Met:**

Goal 2: Enhance awareness of risks to living marine resources and habitats.

- Objective 2: Identify and prioritize emerging regional needs for NOAA ecological modeling and forecast tools with a focus on waterborne pathogens and health of biological communities.

**Key Milestones/Deliverables and Tasks:**

- Host one or more webinars involving regional management community, regional scientists and NOAA EFR theme teams to identify emerging priorities, particularly related to habitats and pathogens. (Q2-4)

***Activity C7. Improve coordination and messaging of NOAA science to support offshore energy development.***

**SECART Leads(s):**

Chris Taylor ([Chris.Taylor@noaa.gov](mailto:Chris.Taylor@noaa.gov))

Virginia Fay ([Virginia.Fay@noaa.gov](mailto:Virginia.Fay@noaa.gov))

Bethney Ward ([Bethney.Ward@noaa.gov](mailto:Bethney.Ward@noaa.gov))

**Objectives/Summary:**

In FY2014, the North Atlantic Regional Team began to assemble an inventory of Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) funded projects to increase awareness by NOAA staff and leadership of the breadth of projects and findings that support offshore (wind) energy development planning in the region. In early FY2015, the inventory was shared with the NOAA Wind Energy Coordination Team. A similar inventory is proposed for the SE region. The utility of these inventories is to improve coordination across NOAA offices in their communication of common science gaps to provide information related to offshore energy development and planning; specifically related to messaging NOAA project ideas as part of the BOEM study plan development process and recognizing NOAA's Trust Resources responsibilities.

Partners in this activity include NOAA staff on SECART through line-office affiliations; members of states energy task force; academic and regional research partners; project managers and representatives from BOEM

**Cost/Funding Source:** In kind.

**SECART Goals/Objectives Met:**

Goal 1: Improve coordination and focus of coastal and marine habitat conservations and restoration.

- Objective 1: Improve coordination among NOAA entities and partners to identify capabilities and efficiencies in achieving regional priorities in resource management and conservation.

**Key Milestones/Deliverables:**

- SE Region project and contact inventory contributed to NOAA offshore energy (Google spreadsheet) of offshore energy-related science and related activities conducted, facilitated or coordinated by NOAA. (Q3)
  - Coordinate with NART to add SE regional projects related to offshore energy development to inventory/database
  - Assemble list of NOAA contacts to State Energy Task Force teams.

## Section III. Appendices

### Appendix 1. Southeast and Caribbean Regional Collaboration Team Membership

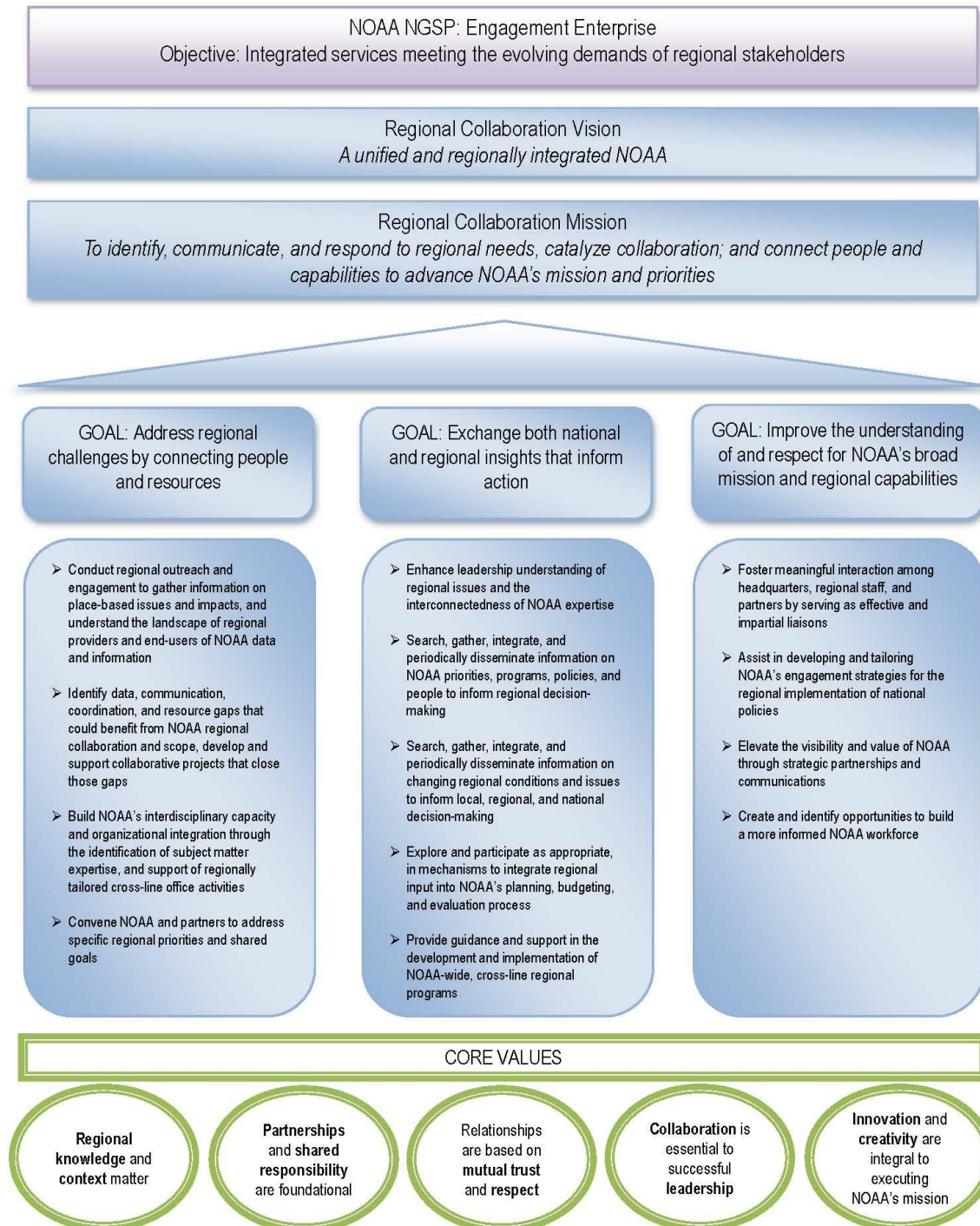
(Dec 2014)

Name	Affiliation	Location	E-mail
Bandy, Rich	NWS	Newport, NC	<a href="mailto:Richard.Bandy@noaa.gov">Richard.Bandy@noaa.gov</a>
Brown, Dave	NESDIS	Ft. Worth, TX	<a href="mailto:David.P.Brown@noaa.gov">David.P.Brown@noaa.gov</a>
Causey, Billy	NOS	Key West, FL	<a href="mailto:Billy.Causey@noaa.gov">Billy.Causey@noaa.gov</a>
Cross, Scott	NESDIS	Charleston, SC	<a href="mailto:Scott.Cross@noaa.gov">Scott.Cross@noaa.gov</a>
Fangman, Sarah	NOS	Savannah, GA	<a href="mailto:Sarah.fangman@noaa.gov">Sarah.fangman@noaa.gov</a>
Fay, Ginny	NMFS	St. Petersburg, FL	<a href="mailto:Virginia.Fay@noaa.gov">Virginia.Fay@noaa.gov</a>
Gane, Brad	GA DNR	Brunswick, GA	<a href="mailto:Brad.Gane@dnr.state.ga.us">Brad.Gane@dnr.state.ga.us</a>
Garcia, Roberto	NWS	San Juan, PR	<a href="mailto:Roberto.Garcia@noaa.gov">Roberto.Garcia@noaa.gov</a>
Havens, Karl	FL Sea Grant	Gainesville, GA	<a href="mailto:KHavens@ufl.edu">KHavens@ufl.edu</a>
Hernandez, Debra	SECOORA	Charleston, SC	<a href="mailto:Debra@secoora.org">Debra@secoora.org</a>
Hohn, Aleta	NMFS	Beaufort, NC	<a href="mailto:Aleta.Hohn@noaa.gov">Aleta.Hohn@noaa.gov</a>
Kearns, Ed	NESDIS	Asheville, NC	<a href="mailto:Ed.Kearns@noaa.gov">Ed.Kearns@noaa.gov</a>
Leonardi, Alan	OAR	Miami, FL	<a href="mailto:Alan.Leonardi@noaa.gov">Alan.Leonardi@noaa.gov</a>
Lokken, Scott	NOS	Raleigh, NC	<a href="mailto:Scott.Lokken@noaa.gov">Scott.Lokken@noaa.gov</a>
Mecray, Ellen	NESDIS	Bohema, NY	<a href="mailto:Ellen.Mecray@noaa.gov">Ellen.Mecray@noaa.gov</a>
Olmi, Geno	NOS	Charleston, SC	<a href="mailto:Geno.Olmi@noaa.gov">Geno.Olmi@noaa.gov</a>
Ortner, Peter	CMAS/U.Miami	Miami, FL	<a href="mailto:portner@rsmas.miami.edu">portner@rsmas.miami.edu</a>
Payne, Jeff	NOS	Charleston, SC	<a href="mailto:Jeff.Payne@noaa.gov">Jeff.Payne@noaa.gov</a>
Rule, Erica	OAR	Miami, FL	<a href="mailto:Erica.Rule@noaa.gov">Erica.Rule@noaa.gov</a>
Taylor, Chris	NOS	Beaufort, NC	<a href="mailto:Chris.taylor@noaa.gov">Chris.taylor@noaa.gov</a>
Ward, Bethney	NOS	Charleston, SC	<a href="mailto:Bethney.Ward@noaa.gov">Bethney.Ward@noaa.gov</a>
Ward, Kyle	NOS	Charleston, SC	<a href="mailto:Kyle.Ward@noaa.gov">Kyle.Ward@noaa.gov</a>



## Appendix 2. Regional Collaboration Strategy Map.

### Regional Collaboration Strategy Map 2015-2020



## Appendix 3. SECART FY15-18 Strategic Priorities

### NOAA's Southeast and Caribbean Regional Team FY15 - FY18 Strategic Priorities

Through engagement, integration, and innovation, NOAA's Regional Collaboration network improves cooperation among the NOAA Line Offices and partner entities to more effectively address our shared regional challenges and respond to emerging opportunities. Regional Collaboration expands on existing coordination and communication efforts by enhancing program integration activities to address NOAA's priorities at regional scales, thereby improving productivity and value to constituents. NOAA's Southeast and Caribbean Regional Team (SECART) network creates means for people to engage at a regional scale (NC, SC, GA, FL, PR, and USVI) and invites new approaches to develop products and services that are responsive to the region's changing economy and environment. This strategy identifies SECART's three priority areas for action over the period FY15-18 and is responsive to NOAA's Strategic Plan and the Regional Collaboration Network Strategy.

**Priority Area: Improve efficiency and effectiveness of NOAA's mission execution through enhanced collaboration across NOAA line offices and with partners.**

***Goal 1: Address regional priorities by connecting people and resources.***

- Identify information, communication, coordination, and resource gaps and identify solutions for closing the gaps;
- Understand the capabilities of NOAA and its partners within the region and facilitate bringing those capabilities to bear on priority issues, consistent with NOAA's mission;
- Convene NOAA and partners together to address specific regional priorities;
- Support and engage regional partnerships to efficiently address shared goals.

***Goal 2: Exchange both national and regional insights that inform action.***

- Understand regional issues and needs and transmit that information to inform NOAA program planning;
- Enhance NOAA leadership's understanding of the region's issues and NOAA capabilities in the region;
- Help regional staff and partners understand NOAA's mission, goals, capabilities and constraints;
- Provide guidance and support in the development and implementation of NOAA-wide regional programs.

***Goal 3: Improve awareness of NOAA's broad mission responsibilities and regional capabilities to achieve an understanding of, and respect for, the totality of NOAA's work.***

- Elevate the awareness and value of NOAA through strategic partnerships, outreach, and communication;
- Build NOAA's interdisciplinary capacity and organizational integration;



- Improve leadership's understanding of the capabilities and interconnectedness of NOAA expertise in the region;
- Assist in developing and tailoring engagement strategies for the regional implementation of national priorities.

**Priority Area: Improve Resilience of Communities to Extreme Events and Climate Change**

***Goal 1: Facilitate the development of emerging science and technology solutions to enable regional stakeholders to better plan for and respond to the risks posed by hazards and climate change.***

- Collect, analyze, and evaluate the resiliency related needs of partners and users in the region to inform and focus research and development efforts to help address the issues;
- Connect people and resources to enhance existing and develop new products and services;
- Encourage and facilitate the transition of research to develop societally relevant applications.

***Goal 2: Facilitate the application of products, services, and knowledge to enhance the capacity of communities to understand, plan for, and respond to risks posed by extreme events and climate change.***

- Target outreach and communication efforts to facilitate delivery of resilience-relevant information to communities;
- Facilitate the application of science and tools in communities to assist with risk identification and the development of mitigation and adaptation strategies;
- Promote the effective implementation of built and natural solutions by bringing NOAA tools and resources to partners.

***Goal 3: Enhance organizational awareness and coordination within the region to improve response to a natural or man-made disaster.***

- Identify agency capabilities within the region for response to disasters;
- Improve communication among appropriate NOAA entities both within and outside the region for a better understanding of capabilities and roles during a disaster response.

**Priority Area: Promote the sustainability of the region's living marine resources and the habitats upon which they depend**

***Goal 1: Improve coordination and focus of coastal and marine habitat conservation and restoration.***

- Improve coordination among NOAA entities and partners to identify capabilities and efficiencies in achieving regional priorities in resource management and conservation;
- Improve awareness of NOAA's mapping activities in the region and access to mapping products;

- Promote development of tools to identify emerging habitat mapping priorities for NOAA programs and partners;
- Promote NOAA's Habitat Blueprint Framework and regional habitat conservation initiatives in the Southeast US and Caribbean.

***Goal 2: Enhance awareness of risks to living marine resources and habitats***

- Improve regional awareness of impacts from climate variability, including extreme weather events, on natural systems;
- Identify and prioritize emerging regional needs for NOAA ecological modeling and forecasts with a focus on harmful algal blooms, hypoxia, waterborne pathogens, or health of biological communities.

## Appendix 4. SECART FY2015 Spend Plan

FY15 SECART Spend Plan		
	SECART Funds	Supplementary funding
<b>Priority: Improve efficiency and effectiveness of NOAA's mission execution through enhanced collaboration across NOAA offices and with partners.</b>		
<b>Goal: Address regional priorities by connecting people and resources.</b>		
Activity A1. Advance NOAA's mission through engagement with the Governors' South Atlantic Alliance	2200	
Activity A2. Advance NOAA's mission through engagement with the NOAA in the Caribbean Collaborative and promote implementation of the NOAA Caribbean Strategy.	2400	4000 5000 12000
Activity A3. Engage with other partners, including other regional partnerships, to address specific regional priorities.	1800	
<b>Goal: Exchange both national and regional insights that inform action</b>		
Activity A4. Address national and regional priorities by facilitating two-way flow of information between NOAA HQ and the region	1300	
<b>Goal: Improve awareness of NOAA's broad mission responsibilities and regional capabilities to achieve an understanding of, and respect for, the totality of NOAA's work.</b>		
Activity A5. Understand and represent NOAA's broad mission capabilities and accomplishments within the region.	500	
Activity 6. Enhance the capacity of the SECART to lead organizational integration within the region.	10,400	
Activity 7. Improve the capacity of NOAA's inter-regional and national integrated services	3500	
<b>Priority: Community resilience to extreme events and climate change</b>		
<b>Goal: Facilitate the development of emerging science and technology solutions to enable regional stakeholders to better plan for and respond to the risks posed by hazards and climate change.</b>		
Activity B1. Help to Facilitate Wave Run Up Modeling to enhance existing NOAA products and services and potentially develop new methods of communicating coastal hazards associated with it.	5000	
Activity B2. Completion of SECART/Sea Grant Storm Surge Measurement Project	3000	22,300
Activity B3. Facilitate Improvements in Rip Current Modeling and Observations	1000	
<b>Goal: Facilitate the application of products, services, and knowledge to enhance the capacity of communities to understand, plan for, and respond to risks posed by hazards and climate change.</b>		
Activity B4. Hurricane/Resiliency Webinar Series	0	
Activity B5. Engage and Support Climate Community of Practice	4000	

<b>Goal: Enhance organizational awareness and coordination within the region to improve response to a natural or man-made disaster.</b>		
Activity B6. Improving Inter-NOAA Communication and Understanding of Responses to large scale disasters within the SECART Region	800	
<b>Priority: Promote the sustainability of the region's living marine resources and the habitats upon which they depend.</b>		
<b>Goal: Improve coordination and focus of coastal and marine habitat conservation and restoration</b>		
Activity C1. Facilitate webinar/workshop showcasing SeaSketch and other mapping planning and prioritization tools for use in Caribbean and Southeast	2000	
Activity C2. Support selection, rollout, and implementation of Habitat Blueprint Focal Areas in SE and Caribbean	0	
<b>Goal: Enhance awareness of risks to living marine resources and habitats</b>		
Activity C3. Support the North Carolina Sentinel Site Cooperative	0	\$6000 FY14 funds
Activity C4. SWATH Network in the SE: Initiating a rapid response team to deploy wave sensors for storm inundation to measure ecological impacts	3400	
Activity C5. Assemble regional datasets on the distribution and dynamics of fisheries ecosystems to support emerging ecoforecasting goals in the SE	7500	
Activity C6. Identify priorities in eco-forecasting goals for SE US related to fisheries ecosystems	0	
Activity C7. Coordinate with NART to collate NOAA science to support offshore energy development	0	
Activity C8. Scope potential development of a NOAA Caribbean Atlas	0	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>50,000</b>	<b>49,300</b>